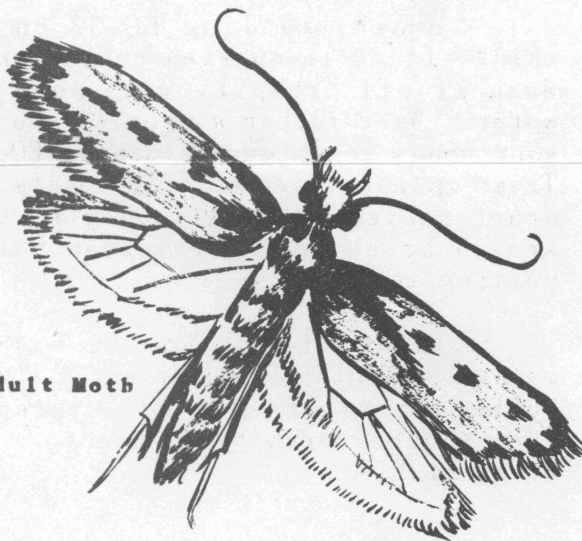


Clothes Moths

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Life History and Habits

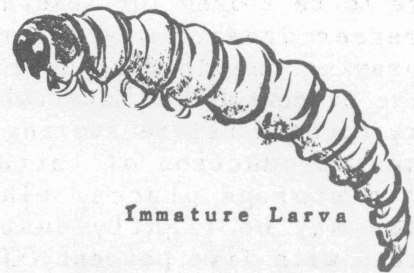
Most dwellings are infested by clothes moths, regardless of the location. Clothes moth infestations are influenced by the temperature and humidity in the house and the thoroughness of house cleaning.



Adult Moth

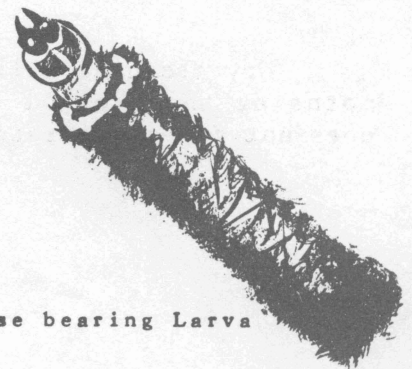
The clothes moths that are ordinarily troublesome are small and have a wingspread of about half an inch. The webbing clothes moth is uniformly yellowish or buff-colored; the case-bearing clothes moth is similar in color but has indistinct dark spots on the wings.

The moths fly lazily in darkened corners, are not attracted to lights, and usually conceal themselves in dark folds of clothing, cracks, and similar places. The moth does not eat. Each



Immature Larva

female deposits about 100 eggs which are loosely attached to clothing and a wide range of household furnishings and hatch in three or four days to three or four weeks depending on the temperature.



Case bearing Larva

The newly hatched larva begins feeding immediately and spins a shelter of silken threads in which it conceals itself. Clothes moths require about fifty days to three years to complete their development; that is, through the egg, larval, and pupal stages. Most of this time is spent in the destructive larval stage.

Clothes moths feed upon animal substances such as wool, hair, fur, feathers, and a wide range of commodities manufactured from these materials.

Control

Spray the interior of closet walls, particularly around the baseboards and edge of the floor, with five percent DDT. This offers the housewife a simple and effective means of protecting garments from flying adults. Remove clothes before spraying so walls can be treated thoroughly.

Sweaters and other woolens which are to be stored for several months in dresser drawers may be protected by spraying the drawers thoroughly with five percent DDT. Materials should be dry cleaned before storing to prevent the introduction of larvae and eggs into storage places. The garments also may be lightly dusted on both sides with five percent DDT dust.

Carpets and rugs can be treated with five percent DDT dust or spray. Apply the material liberally under the carpet on top of the pad. A light application should also be applied to the top side.

Dry cleaning kills all forms of moths at the time of treatment, but does not impart resistance. Garments

placed in paper bags, sealed to prevent reinfestations, will remain free from moths indefinitely.

Washable woolens are protected from insect damage when washed or rinsed in water containing 1 tablespoon of EQ-53 for each pound of dry weight of woolen. The EQ-53 may be added to the soap and water in the washing machine. Wash, rinse and dry the woolens in the usual manner.

EQ-53 is a product developed at the Savannah, Georgia, laboratory of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. It is sold under different trade names and is an emulsifiable concentrate in which the active ingredient is the insecticide DDT.

Precautions

Avoid spilling EQ-53 on the skin. If it is spilled on the skin, wash it off promptly with soap and water. Wear rubber gloves if you put your hands in water containing EQ-53. Treat infants' sweaters, blankets and other woolen materials only if they are to be stored. Dry clean before putting them in use.

Drain and rinse the washing machine immediately after using EQ-53. Rubber agitators may be injured by long contact with the solvent in the EQ-53 mixture.

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